



February 28, 2019
 South Carolina State Capitol
 1100 Gervais St
 Columbia, SC 29201

RE: Business support for clean energy access in H. 3659

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

As companies and energy buyers, we value a reliable and affordable electricity supply, and as the cost of renewable energy continues to fall and becomes more competitive, corporate demand for access to this market will only continue to rise. Our ability to access power from renewable resources is an essential component of our corporate energy strategies.

In order for South Carolina to stay competitive and to attract businesses, policymakers need to remove barriers to economic development by passing H. 3659, the "South Carolina Energy Freedom Act," as passed by the House chamber on February 21, 2019. The legislation under

consideration by your committee would accomplish several specific items that would benefit energy purchasers like us:

1. Allows large energy consumers, such as industrial manufacturers, to negotiate directly with a renewable energy supplier to more easily realize savings from renewable energy;
2. Requires utilities to file a voluntary renewable energy program for commercial and industrial customers that will be reviewed and approved by the Public Service Commission (PSC) without cost-shifting to other customers; and,
3. Requires the PSC to initiate a new proceeding to review and approve rates and terms provided to large-scale solar facilities, streamlining the process and ensuring contract terms are reasonable for such projects.

We urge you to support H. 3659 as passed. It will enact common sense clean energy policy improvements that will improve South Carolina's competitiveness, create jobs and drive private investment. All South Carolinians will benefit through new investments, tax revenue, jobs, and infrastructure upgrades that will accompany the resulting advanced energy growth.

Sincerely,

The Beach Company, Inc.
The Bank of South Carolina
Chuck Garnett, CEO of Synovus South Carolina
Fifth Third Bank
Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc.
The Home Depot, Inc.
Inman Mills, Inc.
Marriott International, Inc.
Metromont Corporation
Milliken & Company, Inc.
Mungo Homes, Inc.
Owen Steel Company Inc.
The Post & Courier
Sage Automotive Interiors, Inc.
South State Bank
The Spartanburg Herald-Journal Inc.
Target Corporation
United Community Bank
Walmart Inc.
William Barnet & Son, LLC